

YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Time Limits

Federal law limits the amount of time families can receive cash assistance through TANF to no more than 60 months. If your parents received TANF cash assistance while you were a child, the time limit will not affect you. Your time limit begins when you receive benefits as an adult. **There is no time limit on State Supplement Programs, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps, or child care assistance.**

Nondiscrimination Notice

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Under the Food Stamp Act and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited also on the basis of religion or political beliefs.

To file a complaint of discrimination, contact USDA or HHS. Write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). Write HHS, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 506-F, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 or call (202) 619-0403 (voice) or (202) 619-3257 (TTY). USDA and HHS are equal opportunity providers and employers. Or you may also write Ombudsman, NH DHHS, 129 Pleasant St., Concord, NH 03301-3857; or call (603) 271-6941 or 1-800-852-3345 ext 6941. TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964.

Administrative Appeal

You or someone representing you may request an Administrative Appeal if you are not satisfied with any decision regarding eligibility made by DHHS. You may be represented by an attorney or other person at an Administrative Appeal. DHHS will not pay for the cost of any legal services. An Administrative Appeal may be requested either verbally or in writing by contacting a District Office or DHHS, 105 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301-6521. Telephone (603) 271-4292 or 1-800-852-3345 ext 4292; TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964.

Quality Control

Your case may be selected for a quality control or other governmental review. Such a review entails an in-depth investigation into your household's financial or medical situation, living arrangements and other circumstances. We may be contacting banks, employers, companies, merchants and other appropriate sources, concerning your household and statements you made to DHHS. **Failure to cooperate in these reviews could result in the loss of your benefits.**

Reporting Changes

You will be required to periodically complete a review of your circumstances. Your cash assistance and Food Stamp case could be closed, and/or your eligibility for Medical Assistance may be affected, if you do not completely fill out the form and return it by the due date and come in for a personal interview, if required.

If you only get Food Stamps and you have a 4, 5, or 6-month eligibility period, you only need to report those changes in household circumstances that would place your household's income above 130% of the poverty level.

If you receive cash assistance, child care assistance, Medical Assistance, or if your Food Stamp eligibility period is not 4, 5, or 6 months, then you must notify the Department within 10 calendar days after the change happens for changes in:

- source of income;
- hours worked by a household member;
- amount of income of any member in your household;
- assistance group or household composition;
- resources (e.g., cash, stocks, bonds, or money in a bank or savings account);
- receipt of any lump sum payment or settlement;
- residence, or shelter costs; or
- child care costs, child support payments or medical deductions, or other changes that may affect the amount of your household's benefits.

Protection of Medical Assistance for Social Security Beneficiaries

If you are receiving cash assistance under the OAA, ANB, or APTD program, and a Social Security cost-of-living increase or this increase combined with an increase in other income makes you ineligible for financial assistance, you may still be entitled to Medical Assistance under the Pickle Amendment policy.

Once you begin receiving Medical Assistance under the Pickle Amendment, future Social Security cost-of-living increases will not affect your eligibility. However, other changes in your circumstances can still make you ineligible for Medical Assistance.

If you are eligible to receive money payments under one of the above programs, but choose not to receive a payment, you will **NOT** be entitled to this protection of your Medical Assistance under the Pickle Amendment.

ATTENTION!

The information provided in this application will be subject to verification by federal, state and local officials. If any is found to be inaccurate, you may be denied assistance and may be subject to criminal prosecution for knowingly providing false information. Any member of your household who breaks any of these rules on purpose can be prohibited from participating in the cash assistance and Food Stamp programs for periods ranging from one year to permanently. In the Food Stamp Program, you can also be fined up to \$250,000, imprisoned up to 20 years, or both, and will be subject to prosecution under the applicable state and federal laws for violations of the Food Stamp Act.

Notice to Immigrant Families

If you get help with health care or Food Stamps, it will not affect your immigration status. If you or members of your family used or received Medicaid, Healthy Kids, or Food Stamps, it will not affect your or your family members' ability to become U.S. citizens.

However, if you get cash assistance such as TANF or help with the cost of nursing home care, it might create problems with becoming a U.S. citizen, especially if the benefits are your family's only income. Before you apply, you may want to talk with an agency that helps immigrants with legal questions or contact the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS).

DO NOT

- **Do not** give false information or hide information to get or continue to get benefits.
- **Do not** trade or sell Food Stamp benefits to anyone who is not authorized to use them for your household.
- **Do not** use Food Stamp benefits to buy ineligible items, such as alcoholic drinks and tobacco.
- **Do not** use any benefits your household was not entitled to receive.

Identity & Residence

Anyone convicted of making a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to identity or residence in order to receive benefits in two locations at the same time will be ineligible for financial assistance and food stamps for 10 years.

Trafficking Food Stamps

Any person who is found guilty in a court of law for buying or selling illegal drugs or certain prescription drugs in exchange for Food Stamp benefits, will be prohibited from participating in the Food Stamp program for 24 months for the first offense and permanently for the second offense. Any person who is found guilty in a court of law for buying or selling ammunition, firearms or explosives in exchange for Food Stamp benefits, or of any trafficking in Food Stamp benefits of more than \$500, will become permanently ineligible for Food Stamp benefits.

Medical Assistance Fraud

Section 1128B of the Social Security Act provides federal penalties for fraudulent acts and false reporting in connection with your application for or receipt of Medical Assistance benefits.

A person may be prosecuted in Federal Court for deliberate statements that are known to be false and which affect eligibility for any benefit or payment under the Medical Assistance program.

A person may also be prosecuted for concealing or failing to disclose any event that affects their right to any benefit or payment, or its conversion to a use other than intended. The law also provides a penalty for a kickback, bribe, or rebate in connection with the furnishing of Medical Assistance.

Conviction of an offense could result in loss of Medical Assistance benefits for a period not to exceed 1 year. Penalties are fines up to \$25,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

Intentional False Statements

Any person who intentionally makes a false statement or misrepresents his or her circumstances or intentionally fails to disclose the receipt of property, wages, income or resources or any change in circumstances that would affect his or her initial or continued eligibility for assistance may be found guilty of violating state law. The penalties are: a class A felony where the value of the monetary award or goods or services exceeds \$1,000; a class B felony where the value exceeds \$100; and a misdemeanor where the value does not exceed \$100. RSA 167:17-b and 17-c.